

# PENNY-WISE

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>List of Club Officials</b>	190	
<b>Introduction by the Editor</b>	191	
<b>Original Articles</b>		
Chuck Heck	192	Dentilation on 1794 Large Cents – Part III
Michael S. McLaughlin	194	Fugio Copper Dies Study – Part VI
Denis Loring	198	Late Date Proofs – Part I (1840-1844)
<b>Meetings and Membership Notes</b>		
Mike Packard	206	Rematch – Half Cent Whist at EAC 2010
Jeff Noonan	211	EAC 2010 Half Cent Happening Results
Jon Lusk	213	<i>Penny-Wise</i> CD Research Library on DVD
Rod Burruss	213	Candidates for Membership
<b>Miscellaneous Collector Notes</b>		
Bill Eckberg	214	A Tale of Two Tales – or – How I Became a Numismatist
Howard Spencer Pitkow	218	My First EAC Convention: Some Observations and Warm Fuzzy Feelings
James Higby	219	Coppers – the Good, the Bad, and the Just Plain Ugly
Greg Heim	221	The Seemingly ‘Cents’-Less Collector
<b>Letters to the Editor</b>	222	
<b>From the Internet</b>		
Gene Anderson	223	
<b>Swaps and Sales</b>	218	

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**Penny-Wise** has been published every two months since September 1967. Its founding editor was Warren A. Lapp (1915-1993). Harry E. Salyards has served as Editor-in-Chief since 1986. Contributing Editors: Denis W. Loring, John D. Wright and William R. Eckberg.

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**INTRODUCTION BY THE EDITOR:  
IN DEFENSE OF WIDE-RANGING CONVENTION LOCATIONS**

Harry E. Salyards

As I look to the Boston ANA Convention next month, it's with a sense of both anticipation and melancholy—because this is the beginning of the end for rotating ANA summer convention locations. After Philadelphia next year, it's Chicago, Chicago, and Chicago. The rationale for this decision has been widely publicized by the ANA—and it comes down to DOLLAR\$. Still, I can't help but believe that something is being lost.

Rumbling along beneath each trumpeted announcement of some million-dollar sale, is the disconcerting *continuo* of a graying collector population, the difficulty recruiting young members, and pleas in various forms for remaking coin collecting a family-friendly enterprise. And what better way to do that than to hold conventions in a variety of locations, with a wide range of local-interest activities, *above and beyond the convention itself*? I have personally attended ANA conventions *with family* in New York, Portland, and Seattle—and the *other* things we did were, in some cases, more memorable than the coin show. Nonetheless, it was the show that drew us—and the *only* time that I've ever been to Portland or Seattle, by the way. And those shows ended up fostering some shared *family* memories of their own—such as those surrounding a certain 1796 dime, that my daughter has already laid claim to as a keepsake, whatever I may choose to do with the rest of my collection.

After all, if it's going to come down to a secured venue for dealer-to-dealer transactions, and a gazillion dollar auction, why not skip the airport, limo, and hotel altogether, and just *do it all on line*?

This is nothing against Chicago, by the way. My son lives there, and it's one of the easier 'hub' cities for me to get to, either by air, or by a long day's drive. But on the scale of 'newness appeal'—well, not so much.

Ultimately, this has happened because the ANA is no longer run by collectors, for collectors. But EAC *still is*. And that's why, following Annapolis this year, we're going to Portland in 2011, followed by Buffalo in 2012, and likely Columbus, Ohio in 2013. All because local 'foot soldiers' took up the cause, and made it work. But think of all the other great specialty clubs out there who *have no other venue* to routinely meet, except at the summer ANA! We are indeed fortunate, in EAC, to have a free standing annual convention that rekindles the spirit of conventions of 50 years ago, as Dave Bowers put it in his piece on EAC 2010, in the May 31 issue of *Coin World*.

But that won't continue to happen without the ongoing effort of dedicated volunteers. So, what have *you* done for EAC lately?

\* \* \* \* \*

## DENTILATION ON 1794 LARGE CENTS

### Part III The Heads of '93

Chuck Heck

As I mentioned in the second installment, I think of dentils as the genetic markers of a die. Their position relative to the lettering and devices can be used as an aid in identifying die varieties. In my study of 1794 die states (ongoing and aching to be published) I have found the dentil positioning to be an invaluable aid especially with cracks and cuds.

Obverse dies are easy. The only letters are L, I, B, E, R, T, and Y. There are no repeat letters. The numbers 1, 7, 9, and 4 are simple enough. The simplest device for referencing dentils is the tip of the pole which is next to the tip of the bust.

Reverse dies are a bit more complicated. In order of first appearance, there are two I's, three T's, three E's, two S's, and three A's around the circumference. I will employ the traditional identification system for these repeat letters using numbers in the order that the letters appear in the legend. For example, T1 is the T in UNITED, while T2 is the first T in STATES and T3 is the last T in STATES. We also have the denominator of the fraction, 100, and both ribbon ends for referencing.

Keep in mind my starting point for counting the dentils as mentioned in the March 2010 issue of *P-W*. Dentil 1 for both obverse and reverse dies is determined by the imaginary line running through the middle of the upright of E for the obverse and E2 of the reverse. If the imaginary line crosses a dentil, that dentil is number 1. If the imaginary line crosses no dentils, the dentil to the left of the line is number 1. Counting continues in a counter-clockwise direction.

The "Heads of '93" are distinctive in their sheer beauty and elegant style. Certainly an Uncirculated or Extremely Fine specimen is a joy to behold, but I have found the same pleasure holding a Good or Very Good example in my hand. What is it? The distinctive hair, the plump cheek, the loveliness of the face ---- there's just something about this lady.

So let's take a close look at the scarcest of the 1794 head types –

### The Heads of '93

This small group of four obverse/reverse die combinations lays claim to another distinction. One obverse die holds the record for greatest number of dentils and one reverse die shares the record. Obverse 3 of Sheldon 20 holds the record at 102 dentils while Reverse A of Sheldon 17 and 18 shares the record with Reverse C of Sheldon 22 at 104 dentils.

#### Sheldon 17 (1-A), Breen 1 (1-A)

#### Obverse 101 dentils, Reverse 104 dentils

Obverse 1: Dentil 1 is left of the upright of E2. Dentil 10 dots the upright of L. Dentil 48 is slightly left of the 1 in the date. The upright of the 7 points directly between dentils 50 and 51. The die break at the tip of the pole actually starts at the rim at the left side of dentil 64. The tip of the pole points between dentils 64 and 65, closer to 64 than 65. Dentil 95 dots the upright of the T. Unfortunately we cannot determine which dentil the obverse crack terminates at because the only known example has major pitting at the rim.

Reverse A: Dentil 1 dots the upright of E2. The tip of A1 points directly between dentils 8 and 9. Dentil 36 dots the right upright of N while dentil 38 dots the left upright of the N. Dentil 59 dots A3, the final A in AMERICA. Dentil 66 dots I2 while dentil 74 dots the upright of E3. The right upright of M is dotted by dentil 77 while dentil 79 dots the left upright of that letter. A2 is dotted by dentil 83.

**Sheldon 18 (2-A), Breen 2 (2-A)**

**Obverse 100 dentils, Reverse 104 dentils**

Obverse 2: Dentil 1 is left of the upright of E2. The upright of the B is dotted by dentil 4. The “faint obverse crack” mentioned in Breen (pg. 99) emanates from the left side of dentil 34. Dentil 46 is below and slightly right of the 1 in the date. The tip of the pole points to dentil 63. Dentil 91 dots the left branch of the Y.

Reverse A: Same as Sheldon 17, Breen 1.

**Sheldon 19 (2-B), Breen 3 (2-B)**

**Obverse 100 dentils, Reverse 92 dentils**

Obverse 2: Same as Sheldon 18, Breen 2.

Reverse B: Dentil 1 is crossed at the far right side by the imaginary line running through the middle of the upright of E2. Said differently, the left edge of the upright of E2 bisects dentil number 1. Dentil 4 practically dots T3. Dentil 29 dots I1. Dentil 31 dots the right upright of the N. The U is bisected by dentil 35. The 1 in the denominator is directly above dentil 42. A3 points to dentil 52. Dentil 68 dots the right upright of M while dentil 73 dots A2.

**Sheldon 20 (3-B), Breen 4 (3-B)**

**Obverse 102 dentils, Reverse 92 dentils**

Obverse 3: Dentil 1 dots the upright of the E. The upright of L is dotted by dentil 11. At the date, dentil 49 is directly below the 1, and dentil 51 is directly below the upright of the 7. The tip of the pole points directly to dentil 65. Dentil 100 dots the upright of R.

Reverse B: Same as Sheldon 19, Breen 3.

In the next issue I will look closely at the “Heads of ‘94” from Sheldon 21 to Sheldon 29.





## FUGIO COPPER DIES STUDY – PART VI

Michael S. McLaughlin

NEWMAN DIE E: REGULAR DIE  
CLOSED CHAIN OF THIRTEEN  
LINKS SUCCESSIVELY OVERLAP-  
PING FROM THE OUTSIDE IN A  
COUNTERCLOCKWISE DIRECTION  
WITHIN LINKS IS A RAISED CIR-  
CULAR BAND INCUSED WITH  
UNITED ON THE LEFT AND STATES  
ON THE RIGHT, SEPARATED BY TWO  
INCUSED CINQUEFOILS. WE ARE  
ONE IN THREE LINES WITHIN BAND.  
SIMILAR TO NEWMAN D EXCEPT W  
DOES NOT TOUCH BAND AND CIN-  
QUEFOIL IN BAND IS UNDER LEFT  
FOOT OF N. NO DOUBLING OF LINKS.  
RARITY 3



NEWMAN E(1)

### DIE STATES

E(1) LOT 517 SUPERIOR 6/75.

### STRIKE ORDER

E(1)-4(1) E(1)-4(2)  
-CHIP

NEWMAN DIE F: REGULAR DIE  
CLOSED CHAIN OF THIRTEEN  
LINKS SUCCESSIVELY OVERLAP-  
PING FROM THE OUTSIDE IN A  
COUNTERCLOCKWISE DIRECTION  
SURROUNDING A RAISED BAND  
INCUSED WITH UNITED ON THE  
LEFT AND STATES ON THE RIGHT.,  
SEPARATED BY TWO INCUSE CIN-  
QUEFOILS.WE ARE ONE IN THREE  
LINES WITHIN BAND.LAST E TOUCHES  
BAND. ARE CLOSER TO WE THAN ONE  
CINQUEFOIL UNDER CENTER OF N.  
RARITY 7

### DIE STATES

F(1) LOT 414 STACK'S 12/83.

### STRIKE ORDER

F(1)-5(1)

NEWMAN DIE G: REGULAR DIE  
CLOSED CHAIN OF THIRTEEN  
LINKS SUCCESSIVELY OVERLAP-  
PING FROM THE OUTSIDE IN A  
COUNTERCLOCKWISE DIRECTION.  
WITHIN LINKS, INCUSED ON A  
RAISED CIRCULAR BAND IS UNITED  
ON THE LEFT AND STATES ON THE  
RIGHT, SEPARATED BY TWO INCUS-  
ED CINQUEFOILS. WE ARE ONE IN  
THREE LINES WITHIN BAND. SIMI-  
LAR TO NEWMAN F. ARE CLOSER  
TO WE THAN ONE. W TOUCHES  
BAND. BASE OF FIRST E SLANTS  
DOWN. BASE OF O BROKEN. N AND  
SECOND E ARE LOW. CINQUEFOIL  
UNDER LEFT UPRIGHT OF N.  
R CLOSED AT BOTTOM- WE ARE ONE  
RARITY 5



NEWMAN G(2)

#### DIE STATES

G(1)

G(2) DIE BREAK: RIM AT 75 DE-  
GREES EXTENDING IN A  
CIRCULAR SLANT THROUGH  
LINKS FIVE AND SIX.

G(3) DIE CLASH: WITH NEWMAN 10.

G(4) DIE BREAK: RIM AT 75 DEGREES  
TO JUNCTURE LINKS THREE  
AND FOUR.

#### STRIKE ORDER

G(1)-10(2)	G(2)-10(3)	G(4)-10(4)
-[CLASH]	-BREAK	BREAK-

G(2)-10(2)	G(3)-10(4)
BREAK-	CL-CL

NEWMAN DIE H: REGULAR DIE  
CLOSED CHAIN OF THIRTEEN  
LINKS SUCCESSIVELY OVERLAP-  
PING FROM THE OUTSIDE IN A  
COUNTERCLOCKWISE DIRECTION.  
WITHIN LINKS IS A CIRCULAR BAND  
INCUSED WITH UNITED ON THE  
LEFT AND STATES ON THE RIGHT,  
SEPARATED BY TWO INCUSE CIN-  
QUEFOILS. WE ARE ONE IN THREE  
LINES WITHIN BAND. FIRST E IS  
HIGH. O IS LOW. N AND LAST E  
TOUCH. CINQUEFOIL SLIGHTLY  
RIGHT OF CENTER OF N ABOVE.  
NEWMAN H-14 RARITY 7  
NEWMAN H-15 RARITY 4  
BOTH NEWMANS H-16, H-18 RARITY 5

#### DIE STATES

- H(1) LOT 672 PINE TREE 10/75.  
H(2) DIE BREAK: RIM AT 190 DE-  
GREES INTO JUNCTURE OF  
LINKS SEVEN AND EIGHT.  
LOT 2446 NASCA 4/81.  
H(3) DIE CLASH: WITH NEWMAN 18.

#### STRIKE ORDER

H(1)-15(5) -[CLASH]	H(2)-15(7) -FAILURE	H(2)-18(5) -FAILURE
H(1)-15(6) -BREAK	H(2)-14(1)	H(3)-18(6) CL-CL
H(2)-15(6) BREAK-	H(2)-18(3) -[CLASH]	H(3)-16(2) -[CLASH]
	H(2)-18(4) -BREAK	



NEWMAN H(1)



NEWMAN H(2)  
)



NEWMAN DIE I: REGULAR DIE  
CLOSED CHAIN OF THIRTEEN  
LINKS SUCCESSIVELY OVERLAP-  
PING FROM THE OUTSIDE IN A  
COUNTERCLOCKWISE DIRECTION.  
WITHIN LINKS IS A RAISED CIR-  
CULAR BAND INCUSED WITH UNI-  
TED ON LEFT AND STATES ON THE  
RIGHT, SEPARATED BY TWO IN-  
CUSE CINQUEFOILS WE ARE ONE  
IN THREE LINES WITHIN BAND.  
ARE CLOSER TO WE THAN ONE.  
ONE SLANTS DOWN TO RIGHT.  
NEWMAN I-17 RARITY 7  
NEWMAN I-21 RARITY 4

#### DIE STATES

- I(1)
- I(2) DIE CLASH: WITH NEWMAN 21.  
KINGSWOOD GALLERIES 5/90.
- I(3) DIE CLASH: WITH NEWMAN 21.  
LOT 682 PINE TREE 10/75.
- I(4) DIE CLASH: WITH NEWMAN 21.  
LOT 2460 NASCA 4/81.
- I(6) DIE FAILURE: AREA AFFECTING  
LINKS FIVE, SIX, AND SEVEN.  
COLONIAL NEWSLETTER PG.16.
- I(5) DIE CLASH: WITH NEWMAN 17.

#### STRIKE ORDER

I(1)-21(1)	I(4)-21(4)	I(5)-17(4)
	CL-CL	CL-CL
I(2)-21(2)		
CL-CL	I(4)-17(3)	I(6)-17(4)
	-[BREAK]	FAILURE-
I(3)-21(3)		
CL-CL		



NEWMAN I



NEWMAN I(3)



NEWMAN I(4)

# LATE DATE PROOF CENSUS – Part I (1840-1844)

## Denis Loring

DWL Grade	JRG Grade	Slab Grade	Pedigree	Comments
<b><u>1840 N2</u></b>				
<u>64</u>	65	N65RB	Mougey 218-Norweb 2946-RWY-B&M 8/99:28-#308 Smithsonian	spot on neck
<u>63+</u>			AD 808-TAD 137-A89:1008-DL-RSB-DWH	dark at rim between *2-3
<u>63</u>	63		B 95-M 319-Pearl 363-FS 393-SUP 6/98:449-	line at chin, spot right of hair
<u>60+</u>	<u>60+</u>	I64RB	SUP 2/99:2292-B&M 1/00:22	spots before ear, bet. *8-9
<u>60+</u>		N64RB	Ivy 1/99:6169-R. Gartenberg-B&M 1/00:21	mark before forelock, spot below eye
<u>60</u>	<u>60</u>	N64BNX	Stickney 1623-Zabriskie 849-TJC 310-EAC '90:269- Stk FPL 8/92-Stk 10/94:17-(SUP 1/96:1069)- (SUP 6/98:450)-ANA '02:287-AJT	spots before chin, right of *2
<u>60</u>	<u>60</u>		Garrett 181-A86:1528-M&G 7/94:186- Paul-(Ivy 8/96:6546)-SUP 9/99:524-SDC	spot on cheek, at *4
<u>60</u>	<u>55</u>	N62BN	RSB 904-RT-SDC	scratch at ON CEN
<u>60</u>			NERCA 11/80:33	lines above *2,10
<u>55</u>	<u>50</u>	P62BN	Num Gal 12/52:844-JJP 233-R. Gartenberg- (SUP 9/99:525)-(B&M 1/00:23)-(Ivy 2/00:5298)- Stack's 7/08:1137	carbon at date, *6
<u>63</u>			Low 9/01:47-F 598-REN	
<u>60DNB</u>			Pierce-Kagin 1945 FPL:116-XYZ	
<u>60AJT</u>		N64RB	QDB 5/95:1008-Gervasoni	light spot at *2
		P65BN	Pierce-Num. Gal., 1946-TJC 309-Lahrman 411- Stack's 11/08:3088	dark at *8-9
		N64RB	Northeast Num. CW ad 2/6/95	
		P63RB	B&M 10/00:280-ANR 6/04:2233-Her 8/06:201- Stack's 1/08:69	spots at *1,7
60		N63BN	B&M 1/03:18	spot at TA
<u>60</u>	<u>60</u>	N63BN	Goldberg 5/03:1032-(Sup 11/04:1171)-(Her 2/05:5170)- (ANR 6/05:1183)-(Sup 1/06:23)-Her 3/06:104	lint mark at *11
		N63BN	Stack's 10/03:2370	spot in 4, mark below *10
JMG 55		N63BN	ANR (S) 6/04:4058-book	mark left of *1
				light spot bet. *5-6

DWL Grade	JRG Grade	Slab Grade	Pedigree	Comments
			(Goldberg 9/05:1497:1402)	line shoulder to rim
			David Lawrence <u>CW</u> ad 3/00	
	<u>55</u>	N62BN	B&M 3/05:100	lacquered
60			ANA '77:433-book	spot before face
50			Pine Tree 11/75:1023	flan chip above U
PF			Miller 937-Hines	brown color
PF			D. S. Wilson 958-NERCG FPL 4, 1975	Gardner 1166
PF			Wetmore 662	Bushnell 2710-Cogan
PF			H. P. Smith 1162	Cleneay 1904
PF			HRN-ANA'49:1747	
"PF-45"			NN 51:1233-Paul Kagin	
<b><u>1841 N1</u> - proof only</b>				
<u>65</u>		N65RD	Stack's 4/88:176-Paul	spot below chin, bright red
<u>65</u>			NN 51:1237-Stack's 3/06:3595-Stack's 10/06:2564-	
			Goldberg 2/07:808-Sperber	
<u>64</u>		P64RBX	Ryder 912-Levine 6/91-DL-RSB-DWH	spot on chin, mark between *1-2
<u>64</u>	<u>64+</u>		Mougey 220-Norweb 2948-DL-CVM 7/93:13-E. Kopald	spot left of *13
<u>64</u>		P64RD	D. Hall, 6/89-RWY-B&M 8/99:29-B&M 7/02:46-#300	dark at *8-9, 10; spot below C
<u>64</u>		P64RD	Sperber 8/92-B&M 8/99:30-book	spots on head, below 8
<u>64</u>	50DNB		Oeschner 172-Briggs	mark bet. *1-2
<u>64</u>			Ten Eyck 5/22-GHC-ANS	spots below chin, left of 1
<u>64</u>			JJP 235-Lipton	dark above *6, spot on cheek
<u>64</u>		P66BN	BUR-RARCOA 8/95-Ivy 2/99:5752-Turissini	spot at *11, nicks above
<u>63+</u>	<u>63</u>		Goldman (1973)-RT-SDC	nicks on chin
<u>63</u>	<u>63+</u>	P63RB	HKD 2196-A80:1073-A83:532-DL-EJS-Gervasoni	spots at *3,*8, nose
<u>63</u>	<u>63</u>	P64RB	Levine 6/91-EJS-Gervasoni-Stack's 1/09:81	nick above *1, spot at chin
<u>63</u>		P64RB	Ivy 2/00:5299	light spot at *1 same as last?
<u>63</u>	<u>63MB</u>	N65BN	Stack's 12/93:1199-EAC '94:432-Her 7/08:1715	scr. nose to *3
<u>63</u>	<u>63</u>		Mougey 221-Norweb 2949-Blanchard	2 spots above head
<u>63</u>	<u>63-</u>		FS 406-RB	
<u>63</u>		N64BN	RSB 926-EJS-AJT	
<u>63</u>		N66RB	Stack's 10/90:1596-Lustig-EJS-Charter Oak	spot at last S

<u>DWL</u>	<u>JRG</u>	<u>Slab</u>	<u>Pedigree</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<u>63</u>			Garrett 183-#58	spot below forelock
<u>63</u>			A81:46-Stack's 5/97:390-#381	spots above head, *2,4
<u>63</u>		P65RB	RARCOA CW ad 2/99	spot at *4
<u>60+</u>	<u>60+</u>		Heritage-RJS-WAR 18-Paul	line behind head
<u>60+</u>		P65BN	Laibstain and TR 3/01	spots bet. *9-10, *12
<u>60+</u>	<u>60</u>	P65BN	Her 4/08:100	nicks bet. *8-9
<u>60+</u>			Smithsonian	
<u>60+</u>		N64RB	Bulowa 10/75:775-A79:1012-(M&G 1/95:559)- B&M 8/99:31-G. Gardner	spot behind head
<u>60+</u>	<u>63</u>	N65BN	Ivy 1/99:70-R. Gartenberg-SUP 9/99:528	spot between *5-6
<u>60</u>	<u>60</u>		FCI 11/75:1024-Ivy FPL, 1976-MTB FPL, 1978-NERCA 4/81:71-MTB FPL, 1984- A85:1036-M&G 7/94:196-T. Hess	spot before brow
<u>60</u>			Ivy 8/96:5306	same as last? cleaned, spot before brow
<u>60</u>		P64RB	SUP 2/91:923-Rettew	scratch on chin
<u>60</u>			RJS-R. Miller-EAC '96:-TR	
<u>60</u>	<u>clnd</u>	N65RB	BMM 6/36:1777-Holmes 1603-A87:520-"Mr. 1841"- (Ivy 5/00:6498)-Ivy 7/02:5922-Ivy 1/03:5245	odd mottling
<u>55</u>			DBP-RJS-Matthews	
<u>55</u>		P62BN	ANA '02:288-#331	digs before lips, under *2
<u>64</u>	<u>64</u>		Allenburger 999-REN	
<u>62</u>	<u>62</u>	P64RB	(ANR 11/04:165)-B&M 7/05:23	spot *12, left of *2
<u>60+</u>	<u>62DNB</u>	P66BN	Pearl 366-Neil 2079-Stack's 11/08:3089	spot at *7
<u>60DNB</u>			Low 9/01:48-F 611-ANA '81:2766-AJT	rim dark below 41
<u>60</u>	<u>60DNB</u>		Kagin 2/47:2344-NERCA 10/81:69	spots before face
		P64BN	SUP 9/98:1697-TR	carbon spot under *2
		P66BN	Ivy 2/99:5762-Gervasoni	
<u>62</u> (MB, BG)		P64BN	Bulowa 11/99:259-B&M 10/00:282-JRF 1232- AJT-Goldberg 1/04:1314-Goldberg 6/04:66- Her 8/06:203-Goldberg 5/08:3705	nicks before nose, spot at (A)T
<u>60</u> (MB)		N64BN	Her 8/06:202	
		P64BNX	Schuch 6/00-TR	spots below bun, line before nose

<u>DWL</u>	<u>JRG</u>	<u>Slab</u>	<u>Pedigree</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<u>Grade</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Grade</u>		
		N62BN	ANR 6/04:2235	spot above head
		P64RB	Goldberg 2/06:497-AJT	Spots rt of *2, under *3, before throat
		P64BN	(ANR 11/04:166)	mark under bun l. of *10
		P64BN	(Sup 9/08:68)	
N65RB		Kagin <u>CW</u> ad 11/06		
		N64BN	Heritage 11/28/06:13009	nicks below *3, before throat
		N66RB	B&M 1/09:24	spot above head
63		A86:505		dark at AM
63		QDB 2/79:1561-QDB FPL 11/79		
63		NERCA 11/78:58		
60		QDB FPL, 1974-ANA '81:392-NERCG		dark at 12:00 obverse
60		ANA '77:434-#40		spot below AT
60		Hughes 2/78:71		weak at right, rim defect @ *11
PF		Pierce 117		
PF		ANA'49:1757-WCB		
PF		TJC 315-A. McDowell		
PF		Sawicki 687		
PF		French's 10/72:919		
PF		Bluestone 89:795		
PF		AD 816		
PF		Elder 12/17:771		spot at *1-2
PF		McCoy 729-Hodge		
PF		Mackenzie 690-Keeney		
PF		Mougey 222-F		
PF		Parmelee 1127		"two nicks"
PF		Bushnell 2713		
PF		Cleneay 1905, 1906		
PF		Winsor 971-"Laurel"		
PF		Mills 1352-Earle		
PF		Earle 3546-SHC		dark line above *12
PF		Eavenson 140-Earle 3547-SHC		
PF		M. A. Brown 927-Earle 3548-Sears		
PF		D. S. Wilson 960		



<u>DWL</u> <u>Grade</u>	<u>JRG</u> <u>Grade</u>	<u>Slab</u> <u>Grade</u>	<u>Pedigree</u>	<u>Comments</u>
PF			H. P. Smith 1165	
PF			Stickney 1626	mottled periphery
PF			Zabriskie 852	
PF			Jackman 805-SHC	
PF			Jenks 6205-BMM	
PF			Beckwith 97-Morgan 323-TJC 316-REN	
PF			Morgan 324	
PF			Miller 942	
PF			Chapman 5/85:949	
PF			Wetmore 664	
PF			Sargent 616-"Clay"	
PF			Mickley 2048-B. Smith	
PF			Woodward 10/80:376	
PF			Finotti 853-Wiggin	
PF			Cogan 4/77:791	"mishandled"
<b><u>1842 N1</u></b>				
<u>65</u>	<u>65</u>	N65RD	Parmelee 1137-Mougey 225-B 98-Morgan 328-BMM-TJC-EJS-RWY-B&M 8/99:32-E. Gardner	flaw at *13
<u>64</u>	<u>63+</u>	N65BN	Haber-RT-SDC	
<u>64</u>		N65BN	SUP 10/90:3390-DL-RSB-DWH	
<u>63</u>			Book-GHC-ANS	
<u>63</u>			Smithsonian	
<u>60+</u>	<u>60+</u>	P64BN	Straus 371-Kagin 2/82:153-RSB 938-M&G 7/94:203-Ttr 12/12/94:108-Ttr 1/18/95:116-DL-Coleman-Kaufman-Her 10/06:129-Stack's 11/07:313	small spot right of eye scratch on cheek, spots below chin and 4 spot rt. of *4 odd mottling
<u>60+</u>		P64BN	HKD 2198-JJP 237-Swan family type set-J. O'Connor	spot before bust, rim nick @ AT
<u>60</u>			Mougey 226-Sleicher 1124-FS 413-Mid-Am 9/84:536-A85:508-Paul-Num. Rarities, Inc.	spots at *4,13 mark before neck spot below chin
<u>60</u>		P64BN	Europe-EJS-DL-SDC	
			(Her 7/02:5923)-Her 1/03:5246-Goldberg 1/04:1315-bk	
PF			JRF	
PF			Morgan 329	

DWL Grade	JRG Grade	Slab Grade	Pedigree	Comments
PF			Mickley 2049-Crosby	
PF			Stickney 1628-Chapman 5/15:1482-Beckwith	
PF			Mougey 1270 in 7-pc set-SHC	
not proof			F-TJC 317-Kagin	
<b><u>1842 N3</u></b> - per JRG, these are all NP, lapped middle die state				
<u>not proof</u>			B 99-GHC-ANS	spot at earlobe, flan defect left of *11
WB			Schilke cased set	HKD
<b><u>1843 N4</u></b>				
<u>not proof</u>			Ralston 664-Mougey 230-ANA '80:1090-RSB3:120-SDC	
<b><u>1843 N12</u></b>				
<u>63</u>	<u>63</u>		Pierce-Fritz-WCB-REN-EJS-DL-SDC	mark before nose
			This was WB's "1843 N18"	
<u>60±</u>	<u>60±</u>		WCB-REN-RSB 967-DL-RT-DL-RSB-DWH	spot before nose, rim under date weak
<u>not proof</u>	<u>not proof</u>		Geiss 224-JJP-TR	
<b><u>1843 N14</u></b> - proof only				
<u>65</u>	<u>65</u>	N66RB	Mougey 227-Norweb 2954-WAR 53-AJT	marks at *5, U
<u>64</u>	<u>63</u>	P63RB	Schulman 3/30:112-Neil 2292-EAC '90:298-DWH	dark between *10-11
<u>63</u>	<u>63</u>		Zug 1119-B 100-M 333-TJC-REN-EJS-DL-SDC	spot above bun
<u>63</u>	<u>63</u>		JJP 832, cased set	flaw before bust point
<u>60±</u>	<u>60±</u>	60+	FS 439-Leidman	
<u>60±</u>		P62BNX	EJS-DL-RT-DL-CVM	nicks above *1, behind lower curl
		P63BN	Stack's 1/08:70	nicks below c, same as last?
<u>60±</u>			Smithsonian	many small spots behind, above head
<u>60</u>	<u>60</u>		LM 3/68:189-NERCA 11/75:398-DL-RSB 971-JR 20189	very bluntly struck
<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>		H-R 8/87:66-JRF-Matthews	engraved
<u>60</u>	<u>55</u>		TJC 324-A80:1078-Stack's 5/81:716-HH 560-	spot below *6, dig below eye
			JRF 1274-AJT	
<u>55</u>	<u>55</u>		HRN-ANA '49:1777-TJC 325-QDB 3/98:296-	scratched at *11
			SUP 9/99:532-CVM	
WB			B. Frank 27	

DWL Grade	JRG Grade	Slab Grade	Pedigree	Comments
PF		N64BN	Winson 1067-Neil 2292-Stack's 1/84:630- (Her 7/05:10485)	very bluntly struck, in set
PF			Pierce 117	
PF			Morgan 324	
PF			Bement 391	
PF - <u>unattributed</u>			Parmelee 1147	
PF - <u>unattributed</u>			Mackenzie 692-Mason	
PF - <u>unattributed</u>			Cleneay 1910-Steigerwalt	
PF - <u>unattributed</u>			Winsor 975-Chapmans	spot on chin
PF - <u>unattributed</u>			Mickley 2051-Crosby	
PF - <u>unattributed</u>			Finotti 858-Cogan	same as last?
PF - <u>unattributed</u>			Cogan 11/74:794	
<b><u>1844 N1</u></b>				
<u>63</u>	NP		Stack's OTC, 1988-DL-RSB-DWH	dig right of *3
<u>60</u>	NP		Stack's 10/78:922-DL-REN-EJS-DL-SDC	rim spot at *5
<u>not proof</u>			A82:31-Ivy	
<b><u>1844 N8</u> - proof only</b>				
<u>65</u>	<u>65</u>	P64RD	Mougey 236-Norweb 2955-RT-EJS-WAR 71- B&M 1/2002:211-Sperber	spots below nose and eye
<u>64</u>	<u>64</u>		Sghia-Miami Rare Coin Co. 6/52:136- WCB-REN-EJS-RT-SDC	
<u>64</u>			Judd-JJP 844, cased set	spot on edge below 18
<u>64</u>	<u>63</u>		FS 451-HH 568-JRF 1291-#309	spot above 1
<u>64</u>	<u>65</u>		Allenburger 111-A82:1525-RSB 988-DL-RSB-DWH	spot at *1
<u>64</u>			Smithsonian	spot below chin
<u>63</u>		P65RB	LM 2/72:72-Stack's 10/86:8-QDB FPL, 1987-QDB 11/87:30-A88:1508-Paul- B&M 3/01:2621-AJT	nick above *9
<u>50/63</u>	<u>50/63</u>	net 60	QDB 1/95:1438-Matthews	spot below 18
<u>63</u>	<u>63DNB</u>	P64BN	Sloss 225-Stack's 11/08:3091	tooling at *2
				spot above *3

<u>DWL</u>	<u>JRG</u>	<u>Slab</u>	<u>Pedigree</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<u>Grade</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Grade</u>		
	<u>63MB</u>	<u>N63RB</u>	P. Kaufman-Her 8/06:5045-(Hr 10/06:130)- Her 1/07:13084	light spot over *1
65			Allenburger 1028-A82:1525-SK	spot before neck
64	<u>64MB</u>	<u>N65RC</u>	NN 51:1253-Stack's 3/06:3599-Her 7/08:1518	spot above *11, bright red
63			AD 848-TAD 145-MTB FPL 35, 1978	spot on neck
WB			MacAllister-TJC 328-QDB	
WB			Mougey 235-B 102-Morgan 342-TJC 329- Kagin 9/72:1079-Kagin 1/75:70	
PF			Miller 950	rim spot left of 1
PF			Earle 3559-Elder	spot above *10
PF - <u>unattributed</u>			Parmelee 1159	
PF - <u>unattributed</u>			Chapman 6/89:546-Ten Eyck-Newlin	
PF - <u>unattributed</u>			Mackenzie 693-Mason	
PF - <u>unattributed</u>			Cleneay 1914	
PF - <u>unattributed</u>			McCoy 733-Levick	
PF - <u>unattributed</u>			Mickley 2052-B. Smith	
PF - "N4"			Pierce 124	

## REMATCH! -- HALF CENT WHIST AT EAC 2010

Mike Packard

This year, a number of half cent collectors arrived at the EAC Convention hotel on Wednesday afternoon so they would be relaxed and refreshed for the half cent whist match that would begin at 9:30 Thursday morning. I was among that group and spent a wonderful evening sharing dinner and getting caught up on what they had been doing over the past year. Several of us took over the lobby and talked to well past midnight. Then Bob Yuell, my roommate for the convention, and I went to our room and chatted until after 2am. It is wonderful sharing common interests with good friends.

Bob organizes these whist matches and pits his collection against those of one or more other collectors. Participants get to compare their collections copper against copper (which really is more fun than comparing collections on the half cent survey). Judges get to see some of the finest half cents in existence. And who knows, maybe the coppers enjoy the reunion.

For those unfamiliar with half cent whist, it is a contest comparing the collections of two (or more) collectors. Half cents are compared, variety-by-variety. If a collector has the variety, he (or she) receives one point. If his example is judged the more desirable (as in, if both coins cost the same and you could only buy one, which would you choose), that collector receives a second point. Usually the higher-grade coin wins the second point. However, when the two coins are close in grade, subjective characteristics such as color, surfaces, strength of strike, absence of certain defects (rim bumps, porosity, scratches, verdigris, etc) come into play, and different judges will score different coins higher. Ties are allowed, in which case each coin/collector receives 1.5 points. Occasionally, a judge will be so into die states, color, or some other specific characteristic, that he gives the win to a coin that clearly loses on the basis of net grade alone. That is fine. The rules are which would you select if both cost the same.

Bob and I arrived at the whisting room about ten minutes past 9 on Thursday morning with the intention of setting the room up for the match. However, Bob Kebler, Greg Heim, Greg Fitzgibbon and others already had the tables, lights and chairs arranged. We would all like to thank Brett Dudek for arranging for us to have the room and the equipment that would make this match so memorable. All we needed were a few trays (soon provided by Jeff Noonan and Greg Fitzgibbon), the rest of the judges, and the other contestant with his coins.

This year Bob Yuell (the Whister) and Mike Demling were the contestants. They had a match at Mike's house back in August 2001. Mike won that match handily. Greg Fitzgibbon and I were also judges at that earlier contest. Since then, Mike turned his collecting focus more to New Jersey colonials and has not upgraded many half cents. The Whister, on the other hand, has been focused on improving his half cent collection and has upgraded whenever opportunity and his budget allowed. Bob was looking forward to a much better outing this time around and was hoping that he could somehow eke out a win.

In addition to the two contestants, there were 16 judges: Howard Barron, Babe Binette, Russ Butcher, David Consolo, Greg Fitzgibbon, Bob Kebler, Jon Lusk, Jim McGuigan, Jeff Noonan, Mike Packard, Ray Rouse, Mike Spurlock, R. Tettenhorst, Joan Widok, Rod Widok, and Shawn Yancy. Greg Heim was photographing coins for one of his projects but was not scoring the match. The pictures in this article are courtesy of Greg, Heim, Bob, and Mike. Three judges did not turn in score sheets. Another six had to leave before the match ended but provided scores for



the varieties they viewed. Those scores are included in determining the “winning” coin. The two contestants also scored the match, but I did not include their scores in what is reported below.

By 9:30, the judges were seated, Bob and Mike had a stack of trays in front of them, and half cents started circulating. Mike began the event by passing around his electrotype copy of the Washington Head Half Cent of 1793. As Breen states, someone (Breen implicates Edwin Bishop, an ingenious mechanic of New York City during the Civil War period) ground Miss Liberty’s head off a 1793 C-2 half cent and brazed on a Washington bust in its place. Whoever did this also rounded the top of the three in the date. I’d seen a picture of the piece in Breen but never before held one in my hands. The experience made my day before I ever saw the first whist coins.



Trays holding the contestants for the four half cent varieties of 1793 followed the tray holding the Washington head. The judges closely examined each pair of half cents, scored the pair according to their own subjective preferences, and passed the tray to the next judge. Bob’s C-1 was the unanimous winner. It was a nice VF piece with wonderful color and surfaces. Bob’s C-2 coin also was judged best because its surfaces were so choice. Bob was off to a two-point lead after two coins. However, Mike came roaring back with impressive wins on the C-3 and C-4 varieties. It helps to have EF coins with choice or near choice surfaces. Bob’s C-4 was a desirable light brown color, but lacked the “meat” of Mike’s coin. On the basis of varieties won, the match was tied after the 1793s. However, one judge gave the C-2 contest to Mike’s example, and Mike led by two points, 79-77.

Mike’s 1794 C-1a was one of the highlights of the match. It is a strong AU with the choicest light brown color. Yum! His C-4a with marvelous color and surfaces was another highlight. Both



contestants had outstanding C-7s. Bob’s was victorious on most judges’ score sheets. Bob’s C-3a with choice color and surfaces bested Mike’s, which had more detail but lightly porous surfaces. The C-5a and C-9 matches were tightly contested with Bob winning each by a score of 20-19. The six “b-girl” varieties of 1794 have different sized edge letters

than the more common “a-girls” Bob owns three of the six “b” varieties, and Mike owns five, including one of the two known C-5bs. Mike won four of these five contests, including two by scores of 2-0 on each score card since Bob did not have a C-5b or C-3b. Mike won eight of the

15 1794 varieties, Bob won six, and there was one tie since neither owned an example of the unique C-6b. Tett, who owns the C-6b wrote “Don’t give up!” on his score sheet. Another example may yet turn up. On a point basis, Mike charged into a large lead, gaining 298.5 points to 221.5 for Bob. However, 52 of the 77 point advantage were from the two varieties he owned that Bob lacked.

Bob recovered on the 1795s winning six of the nine varieties. He gained 25 points on Mike (188 to 163). Highlights included Mike’s near Mint State C-2a with choice tan color, his nice VG+ C-2b, and his extraordinarily heavy C-5b. Not to be outdone, Bob had much above average examples of the C-3 (VG+), C-4 (EF), C-5a (AU), C-6a (Mint State), and C-6b (VF with nice color and surfaces).

Mike won both 1796 varieties with presentable F15-VF20 coins. Bob had a Fine C-2, but did not have an example of the C-1 no pole. Bob’s choice 1797 C-1 took top honors for that variety. His C-2 also took top honors. Both contestants had nice C-3as. Mike’s had a super sharp strike and won the variety, although some judges preferred the better color on Bob’s coin. Mike had the better lettered edge (C-3b). Mike had the only gripped edge variety (C-3c). It is one of my all-time favorite half cents—a super scarce variety and this one was struck over a cut-down spoiled large cent with much of the LIBERTY and AMERICA undertype showing.

At the end of the Liberty Caps, Mike was in the lead winning 18 varieties to 16 for Bob with one tie. Mike led on points 694 to 580. However, Bob does not own five of the Liberty Cap varieties versus only one for Mike. Bob won 16 of the 30 head-to-head match-ups, but he trailed slightly on points for those 30 contests, 590 to 580.

Both contestants had Uncirculated examples of the 1800. Bob’s red and brown with fewer marks took top honors. Mike has a much above average 1802 C-1 and a strong VF C-2 with exceptional hair detail and surfaces. The C-2 was a highlight of the match.

Bob’s 1802 examples were more than acceptable but not as nice. Both Mike and Bob had much above average examples of all four 1803 varieties. Bob’s mint state C-1 is exceptional. Bob won the C-1, C-2, and C-3 contests while Mike eked out a victory with his C-4.



The C-1 was the only 1804 variety that split the judges. Each contestant had a nice EF-level example, but seven of the now twelve judges who turned in their score sheets liked Mike’s early die state piece better. On the other varieties, the judges had a strong preference for one of the two coins. They preferred Mike’s C-2, his EF-AU C-4, near Mint State C-6, his C-9, outstanding Mint State C-10, and choice tan C-12. Bob’s C-5, wonderful C-7, C-8, C-11, and C-13 won their matches. In all, Mike won seven 1804 varieties and Bob five. Mike also passed around his example of the scarce early die state C-5 that was originally listed as C-3. I’m sure Bob was just as happy that this “variety” was not part of the contest because that is a coin that he lacks.

The first three 1805 contests were quite close as the two examples for each variety were nearly identical, at least at first glance. Mike's C-1 won its contest 19-17. Bob's C-2 and C-3 won the support of more judges, although four judges scored the C-2 a tie between the two coins. Bob's early die state C-4 was the unanimous winner. The first two 1806 varieties were also closely matched, and each had the support of several judges. Three judges tied the C-2. Bob's coins won both these contests by narrow margins. Mike's C-3 and C-4 were unanimous winners, as was his 1807 C-1. Both the C-4s had substantial amounts of mint red, but Mike's had a few more marks.

Mike had the only example of the rare 1808 C-1. His example has nice surfaces and color. Bob's 1808 C-2 had great detail and easily won that contest. Both contestants had nice AU examples of the C-3, and the judges were split on which they liked better. Bob's coin garnered more first place votes, so he won two of the three 1808 contests.

Overall, Bob was able to keep up with Mike in contesting the Draped Bust series, winning 16 of 31 varieties. He had fewer total points (532.5 to 556.5) but that was largely due to his not having an example of the 1808 C-1 where Mike received 22 points and Bob received none. Bob was faring much better than he did in his first match with Mike.

Both contestants had VF examples of the scarce 1809 C-1, but Mike's piece was judged slightly nicer by most of the judges. Mike had the sharper C-2, but a couple of obverse scratches caused most judges to vote Bob's coin as more desirable. Mike's very high-grade examples of the C-3, C-4, and C-5 won the day, although Bob's Mint State C-4 won the hearts of several judges. The Mint State C-6s tied their contest.

Mike's AU+ 1810 C-1 with cartwheel easily won. His AU examples of both the 1811 C-1 and C-2 easily won those contests Mike also passed around a high-grade example of the C-1 with a four-star break, a better-than-average example with the two-star break, and a Mickley restrike. Those five 1811 coins were a treat to behold. Thank you for sharing, Mike.

Bob's AU 1825 piece bested Mike's EF-AU example, but Mike's nice Mint State C-2 won the hearts of the judges The 1826 C-1's tied and Mike's C-2 easily bested Bob's not-quite-as-nice piece. Mike also shared his example of the very rare 1826 C-2 with the two-star break. It was not a terribly attractive example, but on this die state, one accepts what one finds and says a heartfelt "Thank You."

Aside from the 1831, both contestants had Mint State examples of most of the remaining varieties, many with varying degrees of mint red. Most matches were closely contested, with five of the later Classic Head matches being decided by a single point. Mike had the only example of the 1831. We counted it even though it appeared to be a Proof and not a circulation strike. Many half cent collectors do not believe the mint struck any 1831s for circulation. I'm not among that group.

Mike did very well in the Classic Head matches, winning 15, losing eight, and tying two. He held a distinct advantage in the point count, 331.5 to 267.5, with only 14 coming from the uncontested 1831 match. At this point, Mike had won 48 matches to 40 for Bob. Three matches were tied. Mike held a commanding lead in the point totals, 1,582 to 1,380.

The Braided Hair half cents were all Mint State and mostly covered with red. Preferences depended on sharpness of strike or absence of minor marks. Bob won five of those contests and Mike three. Points were close with Bob receiving 88 points and Mike 80.



It was a wonderful match. We got to see some wonderful half cents including a Washington Head, and the 1811 and 1826 two-star breaks. These collections demonstrate what each of us can accomplish with patience, dedication, and a little luck. Both Mike and Bob have a good “eye” for nice half cent examples. Each has assembled a wonderful collection of nicely matched coins.

Mike won 51 matches, and Bob won 45. They tied three, including the 1794 C-6b where neither had a coin. Mike won the point contest as well, 1,662 to 1,468. Mike had 98 of the contested varieties and Bob had 92. The six varieties Bob lacked provided Mike with 140 points. For the 92 varieties where both had coins, each won 45 matches and two were tied. Mike still had the edge on points, however, 1,522 to 1,468. Bob was much closer to Mike that he was in 2001, but he still has a way to go before he wins against Mike.



Bob is already planning future challenges for EAC 2011 and 2012. There are a couple of nice collections he would like to match his against. If the last few half cent whist matches are any indication, those fortunate to be judges will be in for real treats.

Mike Demling really enjoyed participating in this match and sharing his collection with others. He liked it so much that he would like to issue a challenge to any and all serious collectors of New Jersey coppers to have a whist match of that series. He suggests that the C4 convention next fall as an appropriate venue, although other sites would also be acceptable. Please contact him if interested. Roger M? Roger S? George L? Anyone?



## 2010 HALF CENT HALF HAPPENING, ANNAPOLIS

Jeff Noonan

We had a strong turnout at the EAC Half Cent Happening in Annapolis on the customary Thursday evening and a wonderful time of copper viewing. The room was full and active with seventeen people signed in to exhibit and at least as many more joining to view. Lively conversation abounded as the attendees studied, compared, and most-of-all *enjoyed* the treasures laid out on the tables.

Below is the final scoring with brief commentary for the five Business Strike Half Cents shown. The top five coins for each variety are highlighted, followed by any other coins that received votes, in the order of highest to lowest score. I find it quite noteworthy that nearly all the exhibitors received a vote for at least one of his or her coins.

### *1793 C4, R3 - 10 pieces shown*

1. McGuigan
2. Tett
3. Butcher
4. Kebler
5. Packard

Fitzgibbon, Matuska, Trostel, and Scheer also received votes.

The Half Cents of 1793 constitute a one-year type coin known as the “Liberty Cap, Head Facing Left.” Early Copper and type coin collectors alike love them and aspire to own a problem-free, representative example. The obverse of the C4 variety is distinguished by the “Hooked Bust Line” and the reverse by the wreath with thirteen leaves left; fourteen leaves right. It was a pleasure to see so many nice coins including several of the condition census examples of the variety.

### *1803 C3, R1 - 13 pieces shown*

1. Tett
2. Butcher A coin
3. McGuigan
4. Butcher B coin
5. Yuell

Packard, Fitzgibbon, Eckberg, Noonan, Luebke, Noel, and Matuska also received votes.

This was an enjoyable variety to view, with several outstanding, truly uncirculated pieces and the full spectrum of die states represented. The obvious die file lines on the State 3.0 (and earlier) coins have fascinated me since I purchased mine at a prior EAC convention. I enjoyed comparing my piece to others with earlier through later states and noticed other collectors occupied with similar comparisons.

### *1804 C13, R1 - 14 pieces shown*

1. Tett
2. Butcher
3. McGuigan
4. Yuell
5. Packard



Luebke, Eckberg, Noonan, Trostel, and Scheer also received votes.

The inclusion of the 1804 C13 variety, a controversial choice since it is the most common of all Half Cent varieties, was a very pleasant surprise. It allowed many to participate and as a result, we saw many nice ones, including two uncirculated standout coins with significant mint red.

*1810 C1, R2 - 12 pieces shown*

1. Tett A coin
2. Tett B coin
3. Butcher
4. McGuigan
5. Eckberg

Noonan, Kebler, Trostel, and Matuska also received votes.

Many very nice examples of our bicentennial variety were available for enjoyment. The top coins were exceptional red-brown uncirculated examples, followed by a number of choice brown coins from EF to MS.

*1850 C1, R2 - 14 pieces shown*

1. McGuigan
2. Tett
3. Butcher A coin
4. Kebler
5. Fuoss

Noonan, Fitzgibbon, Packard, Butcher B coin, Norwich, Trostel, and Matuska also received votes. Additionally, Tett showed his gorgeous proof, which received a number of votes.

This variety is very rare with significant mint red. However, we were able to enjoy two red coins and three attractive red-brown examples of our sesquicentennial variety as well as a number of choice brown mint state pieces.

One collector actually brought a set of pages holding 2x2s with nineteen examples of 1850 C1. He had been putting them away for years and although not the highest-grade pieces on the table, he certainly had fun acquiring them and could be proud of the result.

In addition to the Business Strikes, we also delighted in a showing of Proof Classic Head Half Cents other than 1831 or 1836. Three collectors brought examples of 1832 through 1835 dated coins. Tett easily won the 1832s and Jim McGuigan decisively won the 1833s, 1834s, and 1835s. Were they proofs or prooflike UNC's? The reader can make up his or her own mind on this controversial topic. Below is simply the final scoring result as seen by the participants.

*1832, 3 pieces shown*

1. Tett C2
2. Tett C1
3. McGuigan

*1833, 3 pieces shown*

1. McGuigan
2. Tett
3. Butcher

*1834, 3 pieces shown*

1. McGuigan
2. Tett
3. Butcher

*1835, 3 pieces shown*

1. McGuigan
2. Tett
3. Butcher

Thanks once again to Bill Eckberg for organizing this event that is one of the high points of our yearly convention, to the table monitors for volunteering, and to all the contributors who brought their treasured Half Cents to share. I hope to see everyone next year in Portland and remember to bring your Half Cents to the Happening to share!

\* \* \* \* \*

## **PENNY WISE RESEARCH LIBRARY ON DVD**

**Jon Lusk**

The PWRL disc should be included with this issue of PW. It has on it, in addition to the most recent two years, a tutorial on how to get the most out of the Research Library. The biggest change that most of you will not notice is that it has been recorded on a DVD. By adding the tutorial we have outgrown what a CD can hold.

For PC users, the initial dialog shown will allow you to see and use all of the features on the disc. If your computer does not execute the initial dialog after the disc spins up (normally because you have AutoRun disabled) you will need to navigate to the disc and double-click the autorun(.exe) icon yourself. For Mac users there is ReadMe.txt file on the disc that will explain getting started.

If you have only a CD drive in your computer and don't know someone (translated – son or grand daughter) that can make two CDs for you, the board requested that I do that for you for the nominal fee of \$15 (post paid – see address below). Just be alert to the possibility that the reason that your machine doesn't like the disc is that you have a CD only player.

Please keep your comments and suggestions coming as I would like to make this as useful as possible.

Jon Lusk  
1111 W. Clark Rd  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

\* \* \* \* \*

## CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following persons have applied for membership in EAC since the last issue of *Penny-Wise*. Provided that no adverse comments on any particular individual are received by the Membership Committee before the September issue of *P-W*, all will be declared elected to full membership at that time. Chairman of the Membership Committee is Rod Burress, 9743 Leacrest, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215.

<i>Name</i>	<i>City, State</i>	<i>Member Number</i>
Roger Kimmel	Keokuk, IA	5881
Homer Williams	Reading, PA	5882
Charles Honsberger	Shillington, PA	5883
Paul Kluth	Simsonville, MD	5884
David Swoop	Huntington, MD	5885
Sue Remeikis	Lutherville, MD	5886
Rob Matuska	Heath, OH	5887
Jacob Leahy	Asheville, NC	5888 Jr.
Robert Giffin	Columbus, OH	5889
Daniel Richards	Immokalee, FL	5890
Phillip J. Ryan	Harleysville, PA	5891
Ed Strickland	Marietta, GA	5892
James Brady	Tampa, FL	5893
Cecilia Hannigan	Royal Palm Beach, FL	5894
Tyler Hannigan	Royal Palm Beach, FL	5895 Jr.
Kimberly Hannigan	Royal Palm Beach, FL	5896 Jr.
Colton Hannigan	Royal Palm Beach, FL	5897 Jr.
Joseph May	Albany, NY	5898
Frank Rybak	Glen Arm, MD	5899
George Coker	Alvaton, KY	5900
Johnnie Dando	Liberty, KY	5901
Ken Christian	Lighthouse Point, FL	5902
Dr. George S. Wilkins	Waterford, MI	5903
Michael C. Jones	Port St. Lucie, FL	5904
Michael Cottam	Mukilteo, WA	5905
James Wiggins	Concord, CA	5906



## A TALE OF TWO TAILS

### – or – HOW I BECAME A NUMISMATIST

Bill Eckberg

I don't know when I started collecting coins, but it must have been when I was in Boy Scouts. I have no memory of collecting anything before that, but Coin Collecting was the second merit badge I earned (after Photography) along the road to Star and Life and well before Eagle. As always, I had a mentor in this effort – Garland C. Hughes was his name. He was to me an older gentleman, though probably little or no older than I am now, and he seemed to take a great liking to me and my cousin Ted, who went for his merit badge at the same time. As I recall, Ted was one of two guys I knew who found 1909S-VDBs in circulation. I was never so lucky, despite searching hundreds of circulated rolls. Mr. Hughes was always happy to talk coins and Ted and I went over to his house, conveniently about halfway between ours, many times after completing the requirements for our merit badges. I recall that he helped us fill a lot of holes in our Indian Head sets at very favorable prices. I knew he had an uncirculated (what else?) 1856 Flying Eagle, but I never saw it. I never found an Indian Head cent in circulation until the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but my mother had a number of them, all from circulation when she was younger, that she gave me as the beginning of the set, including a VG10 1908S. Mom also gave me a bunch of old coins that she had inherited from her grandfather. The great prize among them was a 1911 Quarter Eagle, which would probably slab somewhere between AU50 and MS63 depending on the weather and the arrangement of hog entrails that day. It was in her grandfather's change purse when he died. I still have it and always will as a sacred family treasure.

But what interested me most were the odd things I had never heard of. She had two cent pieces! And three cent pieces! Huh? I soon learned from my Red Book that the latter came in two different sizes and metals (all of mom's were nickel). What was THAT all about? Another weird coin that interested me but that I never got for free was that oddest of all denominations – the half cent. Why a half cent? I soon learned that it was needed to make change from Spanish pieces of eight, which were worth 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>¢. What I didn't realize at the time was that having this curiosity and asking these questions was starting me on the road to becoming both a scientist and a numismatist.

There was a coin shop in my town. I won't mention the name of either the town or the shop as both still exist and the shop figures importantly – and not in a good way – a bit later in this story. I went there often, usually on Saturday mornings, and would pick up things that my paper route money, about \$10 a week, would allow. Once I turned 16 I started working at my dad's automobile engine rebuilding shop on Saturday mornings, and, though the work was harder, the money was better. Of course, about that same time I discovered other uses for my spending cash. Coins were never nearly as warm or soft as girls, and I learned that playing the guitar was a great way to find the latter. Which would it be, girls and guitars or coins? The choice was easy at the time.

I didn't leave coins behind completely. I continued collecting through high school and in particular put together a moderately complete type set. Yes, that set included a couple of those weird coins – silver 3¢, 20¢ and that strangest of all – the <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>¢. Since I bought half cents, I also had to buy a few of their larger sisters. Money was very tight, but I learned that if you buy in low

enough grade, you could get really neat old stuff that was made when George Washington was President! One of the coins I bought was the dateless Liberty Cap cent shown here. For being dateless, it had a remarkable amount of hair detail; all letters in LIBERTY and UNITED



STATES OF AMERICA were identifiable, as well as the ribbon ends, fraction and a couple of letters of ONE CENT. But I couldn't tell whether it was the valuable head of '93 or either of the more common heads of '94 or '95. I kept comparing it to the pictures in my Red Book, but I never did figure it out from those.

A couple of years worth of summer jobs and I had enough in the bank that when a decent-looking Chain cent was offered at the unnamed emporium at about the then-current Red Book price, I somehow convinced my parents that it would be a good idea for me to take several hundred dollars out of my college fund and buy it. A few weeks later I took it to Mr. Hughes. He said, "You know what this is, don't you? It's an electrotype." I was crushed – and terrified. I told him what I'd paid for it and from whom. He said to call the guy and tell him to give my money back because "he should know better than to do that." I called and got stonewalled; he had no interest in refunding my money or taking the counterfeit back. Several calls and threats later, he relented and took the "coin" and gave me back my money. I was completely soured on numismatics, and I kept my receipt just in case I should ever forget that this happened. In a way, it was a good thing that I lost interest. College, grad school, three daughters and the discovery that the cost of getting by in the Washington DC area was a LOT higher than back in the Midwest would have kept me on the fringes of it anyway.

I stayed out of coins completely for a long time – over 20 years. During those years, my only numismatic transaction was to sell a \$10 Liberty gold piece to a local Northern Virginia dealer when gold was about \$800 and ounce. Having bought it at Stacks' offices in New York back in 1965 for \$25, the huge profit was too much for a man with three daughters to pass up.

By the late 1980s, though, I began to have a bit of disposable income and rekindled my interest in coins, especially thanks to Tom Holland and Howard Barron at Tom's excellent shop, Falmouth Stamp and Coin, on Cape Cod. This reawakened my interest in my type set, to which I gradually added and upgraded coins, and it got me looking again at that dateless Liberty Cap large cent. I still wondered if it was a Head of '93, '94 or '95. I still couldn't tell. Was it rare? Was it valuable? I didn't know, but curiosity got to me. I did, however, rejoin the ANA in 1989, and, fascinated by the coin, checked a copy of *Penny Whimsy* out of the ANA Library. I tried to attribute it by checking the positions of letters relative to dentils. Going variety-by-variety through the book, I was lucky that it didn't take too long to come to the tailed reverse, which my coin definitely had; the tailed R needed some imagination, but the long tail on the ribbon was clear. That narrowed it down to S-29 or S-30, and I determined that the coin was the former. I thought it was so cool that you could attribute such a low-grade, porous coin that I thought about checking into what early copper was all about. Quickly realizing that a Sheldon set was WAY



beyond my budget, I then checked Newcomb's book out of the ANA Library and tried the same trick with some late dates I had. This was a losing effort, as I lacked – and I still do – the patience to find the very minute differences that distinguish most of those varieties. I thought, “what about half cents? There are a lot fewer of those to collect.” Well, there were those pesky 1796s and 1831s and the “B-girls”, but what the heck? I told myself: “I don't really NEED a complete set, do I?”

I had heard of EAC, and I saw that they had meetings at the Baltimore shows, so I went to one in 1990. Everyone was friendly, though I had little idea of what they were talking about other than the recent death of Roger Cohen, of whose name and work I knew a little. Ed Masuoka, Mike Packard and Frank Goss invited me to get lunch with them at the Burger King after the meeting, and we all had a great time. I joined EAC right away. Oh, yes. There was a kid named John Kraljevich, Jr. there with his mother, too, but they didn't join us for lunch.

The rest is pretty much history. I stayed mostly on the sidelines at first, though the local half cent guys included me in their whist matches, and I continued to go to the Baltimore meetings. I also went to the 1991 EAC convention in Boston. I stayed for less than a day and kept to myself, which was a mistake. I met and did my first business with the usual suspect dealers, and I met Walter Breen for the only time, which was interesting. I didn't get to another EAC convention until 1999, but I've been to nearly all of them since.

My first rather timid contribution to the field was a short piece in 1995 where I agreed with Bill Weber but disagreed with Mark Borckardt and Harry Salyards about the strike order of a certain very nice Low Head half cent struck over a semi-unique large cent variety. All three later became my friends. In 1996 I was elected Region 3 Secretary. Further contributions to *Penny-Wise* flowed rather freely, particularly beginning in 2000 when Craig Sholley and Ron Manley gave me ideas for a new kind of research.

Gradually, imperceptibly and without consciously trying, I became more involved in the club, made a LOT of friends, and at the same time became a numismatist. Howard Barron recently said to me, “Bill, you REALLY enjoy your hobby.” He was right, of course. Isn't that what we're supposed to do – enjoy our hobby? The numismatist in me developed out of a love of scientific thinking, the coins and the people in this really unique and precious club we call EAC. And thanks to a low-grade 1794 large cent that I had owned and wondered about for a quarter century before she revealed her secret identity to me.



## **MY FIRST EAC CONVENTION: SOME OBSERVATIONS AND WARM FUZZY FEELINGS**

Howard Spencer Pitkow

Even though I have been a member of EAC for approximately six years, I had never attended the annual EAC convention. Each year I would look forward to hopefully participating in the meeting but for one reason or another (*i.e.*, family obligations, unforeseen events cropping up, etc.), something would prevent me from formalizing plans. This year was to be different. As April approached I was looking forward with great anticipation to partaking and getting involved in the events scheduled in Annapolis. Due to the convention's relatively close proximity to my residence this would be an easy trip. After all, it was only a two and a half hour drive to Annapolis (150 miles). Fortunately, this year, nothing interfered with my plans and I was able to fulfill my long overdue commitment. Previous to this meeting the only contact I had with EAC members was through the articles I published in *P-W*, various phone conversations and those dealers I would encounter four times each year at the Baltimore Expo (Whitman Show).

I would be remiss if I did not thank all those EACers who extended me a hearty welcome at my first EAC convention. From the very first day I felt the camaraderie that existed at the Doubletree. This warm fuzzy reception made me feel like I was visiting with old friends. The bonding process was immediate which appeared to be sincere and genuine. I was very impressed by the academic atmosphere and felt right at home. Everyone seemed to be very knowledgeable in their area(s) of expertise. I had not experienced this type of academic excellence and environment since I retired as a faculty member from the Temple University School of Medicine in 2004.

Another noticeable phenomenon was that everyone was willing to share information. I did not observe anyone playing it "close to the vest" or exhibiting "one-upmanship" behavior. (If a few did I was not privy to the situation). This altruistic sharing of information, experiences and research findings seemed to permeate the entire meeting much like the sun rising in the morning and casting its rays of sunlight rapidly over the landscape. (Oh brother, I hope this does not sound too corny or sophomoric! I believe you get the idea.) Consequently, I had a tremendous time and learned so much by attending both the educational seminars and talking to both the bourse dealers and other EAC members. The educational seminars were excellent and the Organizing Committee did an outstanding job. My congratulations to Chuck Heck and Brett Dudek, respectively. I did make two purchases—an 1801 S-218 (R5+) at the bourse and an 1848-N33 (R5) at the EAC Sale on Saturday night. My unabashed enthusiasm was probably obvious as I introduced myself to everyone I could find. I probably introduced myself to a few of you a second time without even realizing it.

As mentioned earlier although I have talked to some of you by phone, the only EACers I knew were those of you I met on a regular basis at the Baltimore Expo. This includes Doug Bird, Herb Brunhofer, Rod Burress, Steve Ellsworth, Bob Grellman, Jim Long, Chris McCawley, Tom Reynolds, Chris Young and Jim Young. As for the rest of my "phone phriends," I had formed a mental image for each of you after several of our conversations. It's interesting to note that when we all do this there is never a positive correlation between this mental image and the actual reality when we finally meet in person. Again, I thank all of you for making my first EAC

convention a very positive, stimulating, educational and memorable experience. Depending on family obligations and future circumstances, I hope to find time that will permit me to attend many more EAC conventions.

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## **COPPERS – THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE JUST PLAIN UGLY**

James Higby

When I was still teaching the French language to high school students, I made it a point to include lessons about the culture, as one cannot truly understand a language without having a feel for what makes the people who speak the language tick. One of the primary components of any culture is its economic system and, beneath that, the monetary system that makes it tick. After explaining the concept of centimes and francs, along with presenting a discussion of exchange rates between dollars and francs, I would finally arrive at my *question du jour*: “Why would you accept dollars, francs, or what-have-you in payment for services that you might render to me, for example, mowing my lawn?” In other words, “What is it that gives any medium of exchange, whether it consists of dollars, francs, or even wampum, its value?” I could always count on the usual, pat answers to come forth: “We accept your dollars because we have faith in the government that issued it,” or, “We accept your dollars because they are backed by gold and silver.” It was sometimes painful to disabuse them of this latter fantasy.

The next question, “What if I offered you French francs as payment for your lawnmowing, in an amount equivalent to twice the dollars we contracted for?” always resulted in mixed reactions among the students. Some would have no part of it (I must have failed in my attempt to instill faith in the French government, it seems, no easy task in the light of history). Others would do a quick calculation and realize the good deal they were getting, but still refuse. “B-b-but we can’t just go to The Gap and spend the francs,” would be a typical objection. I explained how banks and currency exchanges in their neighborhood will effect the exchange (for a fee, of course) and they would still come out ahead in the end. “Yeah, but that takes too much effort.” Does that sound familiar to any of my Gentle Readers?

Occasionally, it would dawn on the brighter students that the feature that convinces them to accept my payment in whatever form I offer it is their ability to get rid of it, to pass it on to the next person in exchange for something they want, and the quicker and easier, the better. It is extremely unlikely that faith in the government enters their consciousness at the point of sale. The game that keeps our world running, then, can be compared to that of musical chairs. As long as I have the notion that there remains a chair for me, everything is fine! I just don’t want to be standing, clutching a coin in my hand when the music stops.

It has always been thus. Our ancestors had the luxury of dealing with media of exchange that were actually made of gold and silver, coins that bore the official stamp of the government entity that issued them, maybe even a mug shot of the potentate. Still, there would be regular assays of the coins’ fabric to assure that the medium was what was claimed. To a somewhat lesser extent, this mentality prevailed when the medium consisted of copper coins as well. We think of copper as a “base” metal, but in that old day, prudent commerce paid attention to the weight, if not always the purity, of any roundish piece of copper tendered as payment. Indeed, there was much

fussing and fretting over the standardization of weights for our earliest Federal cents and half cents. Official weights were agreed upon in the spring of 1792, only to be compromised downward before a single coin was stamped. These weights had to be reduced again just a few years into Philadelphia Mint history, to keep its operation profitable in the light of rising metal prices. Even today, there is considerable grousing in some quarters about the fact that it costs more than one cent to mint a cent out of zinc, and more than a nickel to mint a nickel out of copper-nickel.

Even though our coinage standards have fluctuated over the past 217 years, at least there have always *been* standards that could be relied upon. As a result, we have the luxury of treating our circulating currency with indifference and even disdain, never mind the counterfeit bill detector pens at Wal-Mart. The main problem with our coinage today revolves around the ignorance of the public about the many new designs. The first time I offered a re-designed Jefferson nickel at the counter of a local fast food outlet, the Sweet Young Thing at the cash register remarked how it looked so *European*! At least she didn't call her manager or the police.

Such was the case, but writ much larger, in pre-Federal days. Absent a Federal standard, coins were made to whatever standard suited the whim of the local government, or even the private entrepreneur who possessed some stamping equipment and whose influence often did not extend past the next grove of trees. A brief perusal of the first chapter of the Redbook shows that coppers were by far the most common circulating coins of low value in those days. They came in a confusing array of designs, sizes, and most crucially, weights. Engaging in commerce in that day must have required the use of a "secret decoder card," whereupon was an inventory of known coins and their specifications. Anything that failed to pass muster might be accepted at a reduced value, or even refused outright. Of course, most people were too busy to actually check each and every piece that passed through their hands, so many an inferior copper survived to become what we call AG3 today.

In the 1700s the British halfpenny, more or less the size of a later large cent, came to be one of the workhorses of everyday American commerce. It featured a bust of the monarch on one side and Britannia seated on the other. In spite of the harsh penalties exacted from counterfeiters in England, there were plenty of fake ha'pennies making the rounds from hand to hand. The counterfeiters knew that all they had to do was come close, and their work would likely remain undetected. Often known as "evasion" coppers, they often sported legends which deviated wildly from the usual GEORGIUS II REX wording, as well as portraits which were often unflattering. Britannia suffered a similar fate in many instances. These creations originated in both America and Great Britain. Some of the products are laughable, but what counted was that even a crude imitation, when presented for payment at a busy moment, could serve as a faithful foot soldier of business and industry.

We could, of course, discuss the morality of clandestine, unauthorized coin production. Were the perpetrators, both here and abroad, merely opportunists that saw a chance to make a buck by providing something that the public in reality found useful in greasing the skids of day-to-day transactions, especially in a time of royal indifference to the whole issue? Or were they more sinister or malicious in their motives, doing something they knew was not only morally wrong, but against the law as well? From our twenty-first century perspective, how should we feel about such activities that went on centuries ago, having, as we often do, a completely romanticized picture of what life was actually like in those days?

## THE SEEMINGLY ‘CENTS’-LESS COLLECTOR

Greg Heim

“CHERRYPICKING BY STUPIDITY” or “LOSING EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE WON!”

Without going into too many of the details, since I have written about it so many times before, there is this thing called utility theory. It states that if you do not minimize your losses and maximize your gains, your mathematical expectation will result in a non-optimal yield.

Such a practice can be applied easily to games of chance such as blackjack and poker. However, this theory is underrated and vital when it comes to running a successful coin business, or any other business venture.

“QUASI-STUPIDITY”

Before I get into the crux of my story, there are many times that we have backed into making a great purchase because we bought a coin as a common variety, or because we liked it and the price was right. Afterward, we will consult a die variety reference and find out that the coin is not only nice, but rarer than we might have thought. This “quasi-stupidity” happens a lot, and is part of the business because we cannot be experts on everything. Many times, you take a shot. The results can vary, but the more experience you get, the more accurate the shot.

“PURE STUPIDITY”

About two months ago, I purchased a ragged accumulation of coins that ranged from colonials to modern proof sets. Ironically, I also had several consignments of colonials that needed to be placed on eBay. Even though the quality was not the greatest, it was nice to have some early copper after a long drought. As I was processing the lots, I decided to put the group of colonials that I bought into a group of four coins. My reasoning for this was that eBay's new fee structure is suffocating on lower-priced lots.

The lot consisted of a decent counterfeit Irish Halfpenny, hideous Connecticut and New Jersey coppers, and a meaty 1787 Connecticut Copper with some light patches of verdigris. Normally, I would send anything identifiable to Ray Williams to get attributed. Even if Ray could not do it, he was always more than happy to find someone that could. As far as Connecticut coppers are concerned, I have a very hard time with them, but that does not give me the excuse of just throwing all four coins in a group lot and rushing to list them.



I put the colonial groupings up on June 3 for a seven-day auction. Because I am really anal and I have nothing better to do with my time, I watch all my auctions end by constantly refreshing the browser. With eight seconds to go in the four-lot auction, the bidding was at \$155.00. When the dust cleared, the final bid was \$2,375.00! I was in shock, and screamed for my wife Lisa to come to

my computer. It turned out that three people were fighting for the lot. Obviously (duh), there was something in there that I missed and I was sure what it was.

Shortly thereafter, I was informed that the nicer Connecticut was a Miller 33.39-Z.20. It was likely the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> known specimen, and possibly the finest known (better than the Perkins coin). Once I had learned this, my elation turned to despondency. As an avid collector of copper, as a “so-called” dealer/professional, WHY did I screw up the biggest cherrypick of my life - even if it was accidental?

## CLOSURE

It turned out that the two underbidders were well known to me. To their credit, they “talked me down” and told me that my pictures were good enough to attribute the coin. They also told me that it was all over the colonial chat boards anyway. Lastly, even if I had separated it and taken a larger image, the amount of money that I would have left on the table was there, but not to the point where I should be upset. “Keep in mind, it was a three-horse race down to the wire,” said one of the underbidders.

## CONCLUSION

Sometimes we fail to add a shred of human element to utility theory. You can bet that the next time I get coins that I cannot attribute, I will either do what I can to learn about them or farm them out to get attributed. This whole thing is still a source of some embarrassment for me, but if it gets one EAC member to follow through a bit more, writing this piece will have been well worth it.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*Tom Wooldridge* wrote,

I was interested in your discussion of the Chinese counterfeits and what it means for the future of the hobby. I was just thinking, if these guys are clever enough to create coins that would fool one, don't you think it would be even easier for them to figure out how to counterfeit the slabs?

*Editor's Reply:* Yes, indeed. And they *have* counterfeited slabs; they just haven't gotten *them* quite right, either. Which is why PCGS and NGC are paying such attention to the security provided in the bar codes *on* the slabs—i.e., whether or not they will ‘scan.’

--to which *Tom* responded,

The bar codes are certainly important, but I wonder how those of us who buy on eBay can tell a fake bar code from a real one. eBay is certainly not going to check it for us, and by the time we get it checked out, the money will be gone. Do the slabbers have any ideas on how to locally check these things? Just some thoughts.

*Editor's Reply:* I don't know that there is any way for an individual collector to verify a bar code. Which essentially puts it all back where the slabbers want it: in the hands of their member dealers.

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But beyond that, PCGS is now scanning a digital 'fingerprint' of each coin it evaluates. And for truly classic rarities, I expect to see more use of non-destructive spectrophotometric analysis of the coin's surface metal. Just as Weimar White showed, in a 1996 *Gobrecht Journal* article, how a Carson City dime of the 1870s had all kinds of trace elements—including bismuth, mercury, selenium, lead, and yes, gold—in proportions far beyond those found in a Denver dime of the 1960s, so too a "pure copper" Chain cent from that batch of metal prepared at the mint in March 1793 will bear a different *chemical* 'fingerprint' from a contemporary Chinese fake: its copper *too pure* to be true.

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#### FROM THE INTERNET

Gene Anderson

#### NEW MEMBERS

Joining since our last report are **Bill Nyberg**, **Bob Fagaly**, **Peter Mosiondz**, **Matt Yohe**, and **Stan New**. Region 8 has 416 members.

#### MEMBER COMMENTS

**Dan Trollan** reported the results of the Large Cent Happening at EAC 2010. He thanked those who helped: RALPH RUCKER, AL BOKA, SCOTT BARRETT, STEVE CARR, BRUCE REINOEHL, DAVID JOHNSON, BARRY KURIAN, and PETER PEARMAN.

**Red Henry** reported good news for early date cent collectors. Mike Schmidt has published the new edition of *The Score*, available in print or by email. The publication lists all the coins in (and ranks) 42 early-date collections, many of which are extremely impressive. How can someone complete a Sheldon-number set in this day and age? Some collectors have done it, and others lack only one or two varieties. Distribution is only to project members, so if you collect early dates and would like to join, contact Michael Schmidt: [mschmidt@jayco.net](mailto:mschmidt@jayco.net).

**Tom Deck** wrote that he published a "diary" of his EAC 2010 experience. It is available at <http://www.largecents.net/articles/articleindex.html>.

**Hugh Bodell** is up to Quiz 48. Mike Atkins says he liked the cuds on all three reverses of a recent quiz.

**Alan Gorski**, commenting on Red Henry's discussion on complete early date sets, that if he's not mistaken, over the last 20 years a couple of recent discoveries of new "Non-Collectables" have surfaced as one-of-a-kind varieties. That means that only one collector at any given time could have a complete collection. If you define a complete set as the Sheldon varieties published in *Penny Whimsy*, then this allows a few more collectors to have complete sets simultaneously. Regardless, it's still quite an exclusive club—i.e., those who have possessed complete sets.



**Alan Millhone** reported his return to the large cent fold after being gone for 25 years. Back then he knew little of any type of fakes. Jack Borckardt got him to join EAC many years ago. At coin shows he dealt with Jack for the most part. He trusted him 100%. Larry Briggs also helped Alan add to his collection. There was no Internet or eBay in that day. Alan is going to stick with known and trusted dealers. He would not mind having a few of the fakes on hand to train his eye. Do the Chinese make (for the most part) the most and best fakes?

**Mark Borckardt** responds to Alan Millhone's post. "Alan, I am glad you are back ... but what took you so long? :-) You may or may not be aware that my dad passed away in July 1999. He is greatly missed. If you have any 'Jack Borckardt stories,' please share them. And I am happy to hear any stories from others as well. Thanks, Mark Borckardt."

**Red Henry** offered food for thought. More and more of the fake cents are turning up on eBay, and many of them are not identified as such. Some of the fakes are pretty obvious (Mature Head cents from 1840 or 42, and such) but some are not. Some resemble genuine cents pretty closely. Many of us agree that the fakes are becoming dangerous, especially for those who have not studied the cents enough to have an immediate "eye" for something that's not right. Red doesn't think this threat can destroy cent collecting, though, or even seriously damage it, if we use our heads and come up with a way to educate potential buyers. This is one idea: An ancient-coins group Red belongs to maintains a "known fake sellers" list. It's just a list maintained on their website where the names of known sellers of fake coins, from eBay and elsewhere, can be added and referred to when a member has doubts about an offering. Might EAC put such an easily accessible list on the EACS.org website? That way, at least EAC members could have an easy resource to refer to if they're suspicious of a coin. Perhaps some images of known fakes, with notes about distinguishing characteristics, could be posted on the same page. What do you think?

**Ron Sohns** commented on Red Henry's idea of publishing the names of dealers in counterfeits. He said Red Henry has a good idea. Can we have a section of EAC's website contain a list of known dealers who sell fakes? Also in this section could be photos and descriptions of deceptive fakes. The fakes are becoming more and more deceptive.

**Ted Reid** agreed with Red Henry that we should keep a list of eBay "suspect" sellers at a secure password protected address on the web somewhere. Ted looks mostly for fun on eBay, rarely buys, but sees a lot of stuff that looks a little wrong.

**Jerry Karinsky** likes the idea of a "known fake sellers" list. Perhaps we can start by publishing it in Region 8. Jerry also suggested that any eBay sellers be reported. eBay will investigate. That should force the seller to keep starting new IDs and he/she will never be able to accumulate a trustworthy feedback number. If it is the first time you see a seller doing this, you might want to let them know. Give them the benefit of the doubt and see if they correct the listing. He or she might be a victim, as well. Also, if we have a list of eBay sellers, you can block those sellers on your account, so you don't have to keep referring to the list every time you bid.

**Denis Loring** responded to Red Henry's comments by saying that the EAC Board members have discussed this and similar issues. Because of potential liability concerns, we have chosen not to pursue such a project.

**Alan Millhone** said he likes the idea of a secure, password only accessible site that we can post the names of crooks. He also likes the newsletter and everything everyone posts.

**Mark Borckardt** liked Red Henry's suggestions, although he has some concerns about potential liability of reporting names of sellers. That would be one that the best legal minds among us may want to address. However, the idea of posting *photos* and describing *characteristics* of known fakes is excellent and should be available to non-members as well as members. The members of Region 8 should be aware that the Chinese counterfeit problem is being addressed by PNG. They have the interest of the Federal Trade Commission. Mark will try to keep Region 8 posted of new developments.

**Randall Snyder** said that he sees no good in having/posting/maintaining a list of known sellers of fake coins. It's not just that we would be opening up the chance of legal repercussions but the list itself would be continuously changing, incomplete, and impossible to maintain. Did the seller get fooled? There are already established safety nets provided by that "big Internet auction house." If a seller sells a fake in addition to authentic coins should his entire stock be labeled as risky? Who is going to be the judge of authenticity? Crooked sellers do get bumped off eBay only to come back as somebody else. The idea of having a list is well intentioned but is far more problematic than beneficial. The best and safest way to avoid getting taken is: (1) get a return or refund guarantee. (2) Get expert opinions if you suspect a problem. (3) Become your own expert. And most important, (4) don't spend more than you understand. There are those who rely on slabs, and that is a good thing 99.44% of the time. Third party grading is not a guarantee of authenticity, but it is a reassuring opinion of authenticity. On the bright side, the China counterfeits are imperfect and, at this time, they are becoming common knowledge throughout the collecting and retail community. Most are on the lookout for them. Randall believes that a collection of these as part of the 'members only' website could be a valuable tool in helping members understand these fakes and what attribution/diagnostic points to look for without having to buy them to study them.

**Bill Maryott** laments changes in eBay. For many years, eBay was primarily an auction venue. Coins were listed at a nominal cost and bids were placed and the high bidder won the lot. eBay is basically not primarily an auction venue for coins anymore. It is rather a large cent store. If you want to see the eBay store, just type in "Large Cent" and choose "coins and currency." Today you will find 720 items, nearly all with unrealistic reserves. Basically, it's just a store. Now if you do want to see what is really being auctioned, you can go to "advanced search" and enter "number of bids = 1 to 50 and now you will see every coin that is being bid on. Today there are just 38 large cents with any bids at all of more than \$50. It is really sad that the eBay auction venue is gone. For over ten years, it has been a fabulous way to obtain large cents with competitively bidding. Now we have a very small group of sellers using very tiny pictures, outlandish grades and conditions, and a large group of uninformed bidders vying for a very few coins.

**Neil Aitchison** offered a challenge. He has a project for someone with a little time. He picked up about 43 large cents all FR1 to AG2 all dateless but all between 1794 and 1814. He was wondering if someone wanted to try to attribute them. If interested, please contact Neil at [aitchisoncoins@aol.com](mailto:aitchisoncoins@aol.com).

**Robert Holmes** commented on his experience with eBay. He has been buying, and to a lesser degree, selling, on eBay for 11 years. He has certainly seen the increase in (mostly Chinese) fakes, the proliferation of stores, and the gross inflation in grades and fixed prices. His personal favorite is the use of the term "choice" to describe scudzy large cents. That having been said, in many ways eBay is no different than the broad spectrum of dealers and shows (perhaps just NOT

EAC/C4 shows!) Dealers (even an occasional large cent dealer) overgrade coins all the time, on or off eBay. Almost all coins offered by dealers and at shows are marked with a fixed price. That doesn't mean the knowledgeable buyer accepts the dealer's grade or the fixed price - see *CQR* for some wisdom on that score! Let education and common sense prevail: Know your seller, know the coins you collect, understand grading, and own the books. When in doubt, ask questions, either of the seller or of EAC friends. Don't buy if in doubt about ANY of the foregoing, be sure you buy from someone with lots of good SELLER feedback, be sure there is a satisfactory return policy for anything you purchase and, nowadays, try to keep up on what coins are being faked. NEVER buy anything from China or anything that looks like a Chinese-offered coin from someone else. If you think a fixed price is too high, but you like the coin, email the seller and make an offer. This is especially effective with mid-priced coins that have sat in the seller's inventory for a while. You can put a coin on your eBay watch list and if it doesn't sell in a month or two, make a bold but reasonable offer. Robert has obtained quite a few nice coins that way over the years. eBay can still be a great collector's market place. Before eBay, it took years of traveling from show to show, up and down the East Coast, and searching fixed price inventory to assemble the 100-coin Wayte Raymond large cent set. Since eBay, given time, money and a little good judgment, one could put that set together in a year or less and never leave home. Many rarities also show up on eBay that might never otherwise come to attention of serious cent collectors...just ask Shawn Yancey! One final observation: Sheldon would roll over in his grave if he could see the number of junk coins bringing high prices. This has little to do with eBay, but everything to do with supply and demand. Twenty or thirty years ago, many storefront dealers had an ashtray or junk box holding wreath cents, 1794s and the like that were corroded, dented or whatever, and all for sale at 25 or 35 bucks apiece. Few were bought because they were not for "real" cent collectors. Given current availability and prices, one is lucky to be able to afford and possess one of those coins that not so long ago was considered un-collectible. In the end, there are now many fakes because the real articles are so scarce and expensive. eBay simply offers a vehicle for their sale—but it is also a vehicle for lots of honest buyers and sellers and there is still plenty of meat amongst the bone.

**James Rehmus** wrote in response to eBay, scammers, crooks and the law... Laws are never going to stop Alan Milhone's "crooks." Big cheats, small cheats, big con, small con are everywhere. Just read the business section of your local paper. And the legal repercussions of any EAC blacklist are inevitable and very expensive. Beware of what you put in writing because even benign attempts to clean out a lawless minority can be actionable. Yes, we are a society of laws. But the law is also a cudgel that can be used to beat down any individual or group. James agrees with Randall Snyder and his philosophy that you should know more than the bad guys—that's true whether you are buying on eBay or from that old fellow who seemed so friendly and knowledgeable at the coin show. And you should try to limit your downside risk in every way possible: guarantees; return rights; expert advice. Trust but verify. On eBay simple communication (or non-communication) with a seller can be very telling. Ask the questions. If the answers aren't suitable, pass. If it's too good to be true, pass. If you aren't sure, there's that nagging doubt, pass.

**Alan Gorsky** wrote that he can't add too much to the e-Bay discussion except Caveat Emptor (Buyer Beware). But this is true with any purchase. He is sure we've had our moments when, upon closer examination, we determine that we paid too much. But five years from now, the price might be a real bargain. He supposes we'd all like to think that we can pick out the "cherries" every time. But that would take a lot of patience and luck and occasionally we get

“picked” anyway. Alan collects because it's fun and an adventure (some would call it a journey). When it's no longer fun, Alan will do something else.

**Jeff Noonan** wrote a reminder to Half Cent Collectors that the “Half Cent Business Strike by Die Variety” online list exists at our [www.eacs.org](http://www.eacs.org) website. Here is a brief summary of what you can do with the online Half Cent collection list.

- 1) Easily enter your collection for all business strike die varieties including grade, obverse and reverse pictures (optional), and comments (also optional) for each variety.
- 2) View your own or other members' collections for all business strikes in list format.
- 3) Compare your collection to others and the CC #1 coin by overall score, including the following information: Number of Varieties, % Complete, Grade Total, Average Grade, % Grade, and Overall Score.
- 4) View a list of all coins entered for any given variety, including any photos uploaded by members.

Our membership continues to grow and currently includes collectors ranging from those owning just a few to those owning over 90 varieties. The Half Cent Business Strike by Die Variety List is easy to access, always available for updating/viewing via the web, and is open to anyone who is an EAC member in good standing. If interested, please send Jeff an email at [halfcent@wi.rr.com](mailto:halfcent@wi.rr.com) and he will give you access and send you some simple “Getting Started” instructions.

**Ed Bodie** commented that the report of the balance sheet of EAC prompted him to suggest some thoughts about how to use the funds “in the bank.”

He suggested two efforts:

- 1 -- Advertise in numismatic journals a special introductory dues rate for new members. For example, offer a two-year membership for the regular price of one year.
- 2 -- Reward longtime members with a reduced dues rate. For example, a percentage discount based on length of membership (determined by member number) and/or give really longtime members an honorary lifetime membership. Just some thoughts to stir other thoughts.

**Dennis Fuoss** stated he was reading the latest issue of *Penny-Wise* and came across Chuck Heck's informative article about doubled dentils on 1794 cents. Dennis greatly enjoyed reading about Chuck's keen observations, but the thing that really struck him while reading this article, was how little time he spent actually “looking” at the coins in his collection. Oh sure, he looked very hard at each of them while he was deciding to purchase them. The only problem was that while he was inspecting each coin, he was basically performing a net-grading exercise, and not really looking at the piece with an eye toward appreciating it. Later, when he had some time to really look at each coin for any unique and/or unusual features, he mostly failed to perform this most basic collecting duty properly. Instead, he photographed the coins (if they were valuable enough), catalogued them in his collection database, and proceeded to take the physical piece to the bank, for safe storage. He created a collection of “I-coins,” when the actual coins themselves were unavailable for touching and gazing and appreciating. Dennis spent a lot of time and effort improving his technical skills with copper, but in the process, he began to lose touch with the heart and soul of what collecting early copper should be all about. He wants to thank Chuck for

reminding him of WHY we are all involved in this hobby. Dennis is making a resolution to take a long REAL look at every copper he owns this year.

## INQUIRING MINDS

**Shawn Yancey** said he has developed an interest in proof half cents, and is trying to educate himself. It seems like there is not a single reference for the proofs, but he keeps seeing a “Rick Coleman monograph” being mentioned. He would like to poll region 8 to see if anybody has one of these monographs for sale, and also ask if there are any other sources he can use to educate himself, particularly with respect to mintages, striking dates, and estimated rarity factors.

**Michael Fey** asked if anyone else saw the possible “finest known” F/VF 1811 “2 star break” half cent that went off on eBay recently. With 6 seconds left, the coin went from about \$1500 to over \$15,500 and sold.

**Jon Hanson** asked if someone could post information on the recently completed 1811 half cent with two star break sale on eBay so everyone can view the sale and, more importantly, the condition.

**Al Boka** makes two requests.

With regard to his forever-ongoing quest to trace 1794 pedigrees, he desperately needs a “buyer's list” from the Dr. Wallace Lee sale in 2003. If any one has a copy please contact him at: eac406@aol.com. On Thursday at EAC in Annapolis a copy of the Bushnell catalog with reproduction plates was sold by David Fanning. Bob Schumann would like contact the buyer if possible. Please email him at: [schuman1794@mac.com](mailto:schuman1794@mac.com).

**Tom Masbruch** says he got a little interested in the Hard Times Tokens and is having a “hard time” (no pun intended) finding any reference books. Has anyone out there have an up-to-date reference that they would like to sell? He has been thru the web sites for reference books but is not having much luck. Please email him at: [coppercents@southslope.net](mailto:coppercents@southslope.net).

**Bill Gleckler** asked for some help.

He recently purchased 2 expensive and rare colonial coins. They both have small spots of green corrosion. How does he best remove this without jeopardizing other areas of the coin?

\* \* \* \* \*

## SWAPS AND SALES

EACers are invited to submit their ads for inclusion in this column. Ads up to twelve lines are free. ADS LARGER THAN 12 LINES MUST BE SUBMITTED CAMERA-READY, AND PAID IN ADVANCE. A full-page ad is \$150. Graphic and halftone setup is an *additional* \$60 per page. One-half page is \$75. One-third page is \$50. Ads should be limited to early American Coppers or tokens. Deadline for material to appear in the September 2010 issue is August 31, 2010. All ads must include the individual membership number of a current member in good standing. Copy should be sent to the Editor, Harry E. Salyards, 606 North Minnesota Avenue, Hastings, NE 68901.

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**ALLAN DAVISSON, EAC #3299**                      Cold Spring, MN 56320 (our complete address)  
(320) 685-3835                      fax (320) 685-8636                      [coins@davissons.net](mailto:coins@davissons.net)

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\* \* \* \* \*

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We still have some copies of The CENT Book 1816-1839.  
Ask anybody who has one or has seen one--you want this book.

We are selling what we have to EAC members at \$100 postpaid.

Please email us at [theJohn@SBCglobal.net](mailto:theJohn@SBCglobal.net)

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**Dick Varian, EAC #5099** 156 Park Avenue Park Ridge, NJ 07656  
(201) 746-0027 [Dick1793@optonline.net](mailto:Dick1793@optonline.net)

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#### EARLY COPPER AUCTIONS

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(407) 682-9592 (home) (407) 221-1654 (cell) email: [ljefferys@cfl.rr.com](mailto:ljefferys@cfl.rr.com).

**Consignments for Auction:** I am accepting consignments for all McCawley & Grellman (M&G) Auctions, including the annual EAC Sale and C-4 Sale (Colonial Coin Collector’s Club), as well as auctions at commercial venues. Call for details and the options available.

**Late Date Large Cent Book:** *The Die Varieties of United States Large Cents 1840-1857* is available for immediate delivery. Every known die variety and die state of 1840-1857 cents is fully described, with additional rarity information for rare die states. The book is a deluxe hardbound edition, 464 pages, over 100 photos. Price is \$100 postpaid. Autographed on request.

\* \* \* \* \*

Rod Burress, EAC #109

9743 Leacrest  
(513) 771-0696

Cincinnati, OH 45215

*For Sale:* #4 Soft Jeweler's Brush \$8.50 each  
Jeweler's Tissue, 4 x 4 sheets: box of 1000, \$7.50; package of 250: \$2.50  
Xylol, 4 oz. bottle, plus 100 wooden stick Q-tips \$4.00  
Acetone, 4 oz. bottle, plus 100 wooden stick Q-tips \$4.00  
Wooden stick Q-tips: \$4.50 per 500; \$8.50 per 1000  
Cast iron notary machine, unconverted, for the do-it-yourselfer \$16.00  
Heavy-duty 28 lb. Kraft 2 x 2 coin envelopes, in gray, white, or brown:  
\$4.75 per 100; \$20 per 500; \$38 per 1000. (Send SASE for samples.)  
Cotton Liners, 100 percent soft cotton flannel interior; fit inside standard 2 x 2 coin  
envelopes: package of 100 for \$31. (Send SASE for sample.)  
VIGOR 10x Triplet magnifying glass: very high quality optics—aplanatic, achromatic,  
with extra wide 13/16 inch lens. The best glass on the market to my knowledge  
for its size and price. \$59 each, with cord.  
Attribution Guide for Matron Head Cents, 1816-1835, approx. 37 pages \$5.00

Add \$9 per order for shipping (\$10 Western states). Any excess will be refunded.  
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\* \* \* \* \*

**Greg Heim, EAC # 3619** P. O. Box 277 South Plainfield, NJ 07080-0277  
(908) 405-6408

WANTED: Colonials, Half Cents, or Large Cents for consignment on eBay, which have a “per lot” average of at least \$150.00. I provide basic, straightforward auctions in a “no reserve” format with excellent images and customer service. Please call or e-mail to request my fee structure. Go to my website at [www.gynandroidhead.com](http://www.gynandroidhead.com) for more information.

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Thomaston, ME 04861-0196

I will attend the ANA World's Fair of Money in Boston, August 10-14. Please stop by my booth, #1337, to visit and to view a fine selection of large copper cents and other interesting material.

The following are a few "specials" for this issue of *Penny-Wise*:

1794 S-65, R1, F12, Average: Die State B, minor porosity on rev., even color, pleasing. \$650.

1797 S-128, R3-, F15, Average: Die State B, full denticles on obv. and rev., even medium brown color, a few handling marks on a very nice coin. \$825.

1798 S-172, R2, F15, Average: Late Die State B, attractive dark brown surfaces with tan devices and a few tiny marks. \$450.

I encourage you to visit my web stie at [www.johndirnbauercoins.com](http://www.johndirnbauercoins.com) to see a wide variety of copper in the desirable and affordable grades of VG-VF, and a few on either side of this range.

• \* \* \* \* \*

**Henry T. Hettger, EAC #2349**

P. O. Box 2018  
(703) 979-1942

Arlington, VA 22202

Two unsold lots from the 2010 EAC Sale:

Lot 309: 1817 N-4, R3+, PCGS VF-30, EAC 25/20, smooth brown color, prized variety. \$300.

Lot 492: Group lot of four cents: 1800 S-210 R5 obverse, reverse ground off, a thin coin thus, with the obverse very appealing and completely clear G6. 1820 N-14 G-4 net Fair-2. 1827 N-9, circular counterstamps. 1845 N-7, G6. An eclectic group. \$190.

Postage \$5 on either lot.

\* \* \* \* \*

**David Johnson, EAC #5235** PO Box 8452 Chattanooga, TN 37411 423-240-4277

1796 S-103 LIHERTY. Choice glossy hard smooth surfaces. VG10/12, net8+. Couple small field marks \$5500

1797 S-121a Plain Edge. R7. AG3 Obv. Fr2 rev. Circulation marks. No corrosion.....\$1875

1819 N7 Small Date VF25 Net 20. Tied for CC19 .....\$370

1826 N5 VF30+ Ex: Reiver. Glossy steel brown/med brown. M-LDS rim CUD (removed from PCGS 40 holder)..... \$325

1835 N8 VF20 Net 15. Mottled brown/olive, some contact marks, rare TDS w/obv bisecting crack \*1 to \*8.....\$220

1854-N26 AU55, Choice, glossy, attractive brown surfaces.....\$255

e-mail me @ [davejohnson@comcast.net](mailto:davejohnson@comcast.net) for further information or call 423-240-4277. S, H & Ins. included.

**Gene Anderson, EAC #4718** P.O. Box 9037 Paris, Texas 75461 or [ganderson@paristexas.gov](mailto:ganderson@paristexas.gov)

Wanted for my personal collection:

Any EAC counterstamped coin issued to an attendee of an EAC convention.

EAC 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary medal in silver.

R. E. Bynum saloon token.

Paris, Texas transportation token-Atwood/Coffee # 710 A      Paris Railway Co.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Chuck Heck, EAC 514**

PO Box 3498

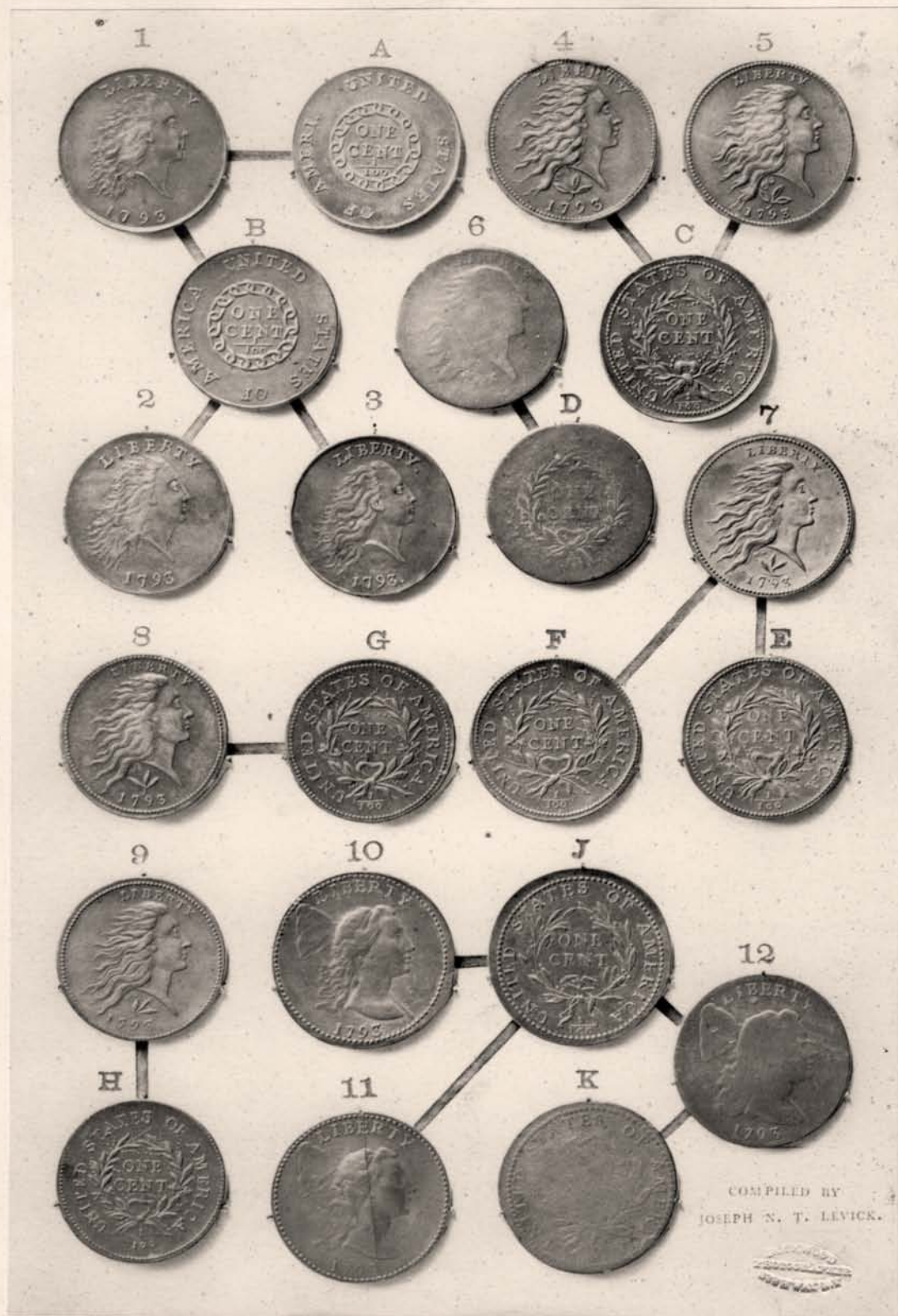
Lantana, FL 33465

1794 S-26 VF20 Late state -Breen VII; very slight microporosity, two tone	\$1750
1794 S-32 AG3 Early state – Breen I; sm scratch at eye another at chin, brown	\$600
1794 S-58 VG 10 Terminal Rev cud; nice coin; light brown	\$650
1794 S-62 Fine 15 Grellman grade, late with cud, VF25 sharpness, Rev planchet porosity at TES OF, pretty steel brown	\$3800
United States Cents of 1796 – Gilbert Elder 1909 with two supplemental sheets with Nos. 22-25 and 26-31. Brown cloth – Stack Library duplicate, Near fine	\$200
2 oz bottle Copper Tonic – protect copper coins from impurities -	\$9 per
Add \$2 per bottle for shipping; excess will be refunded	

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J.N.T. LeVick's Plate of 1793 Cent Varieties  
*American Journal of Numismatics*, 1869  
 Image courtesy of Jim Neiswinter